

MARVEL

ISSUE

25

NATURAL RESOURCES

WOOD • ASRAR • VLASCO • BELLAIRE

ULTIMATE COMICS™

X-MEN



**LIVING IN A WORLD
WHERE MUTANTS ARE
HATED AND FEARED MORE
THAN EVER, ONE GROUP
OF YOUNG HEROES HAS
BANDED TOGETHER TO
FIGHT BACK.**

ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN



PREVIOUSLY:

Kitty Pryde's magnum opus, Utopia, might actually have a fighting chance. The mutants have used the sentient seed to turn Utopia into a functioning biosphere. Mutant refugees from all over the country have begun to come out of hiding, showing up at Utopia's doorstep eager to find a home that will finally accept them.

But Kitty and her friends shouldn't get too comfortable. There are still threats on the horizon.

Political officials in Washington, claiming that mutants are US property, have made moves to legally nullify President Cap's treaty and capitalize on mutant patents. Jean Grey, shedding her pseudonym, has decided to take Tian's espionage one step further and see Utopia with her own eyes. And on top of that, has Jimmy been secretly meeting with Mach Two's rebel crew?

With all of these enemies around her, who's left for Kitty to trust?

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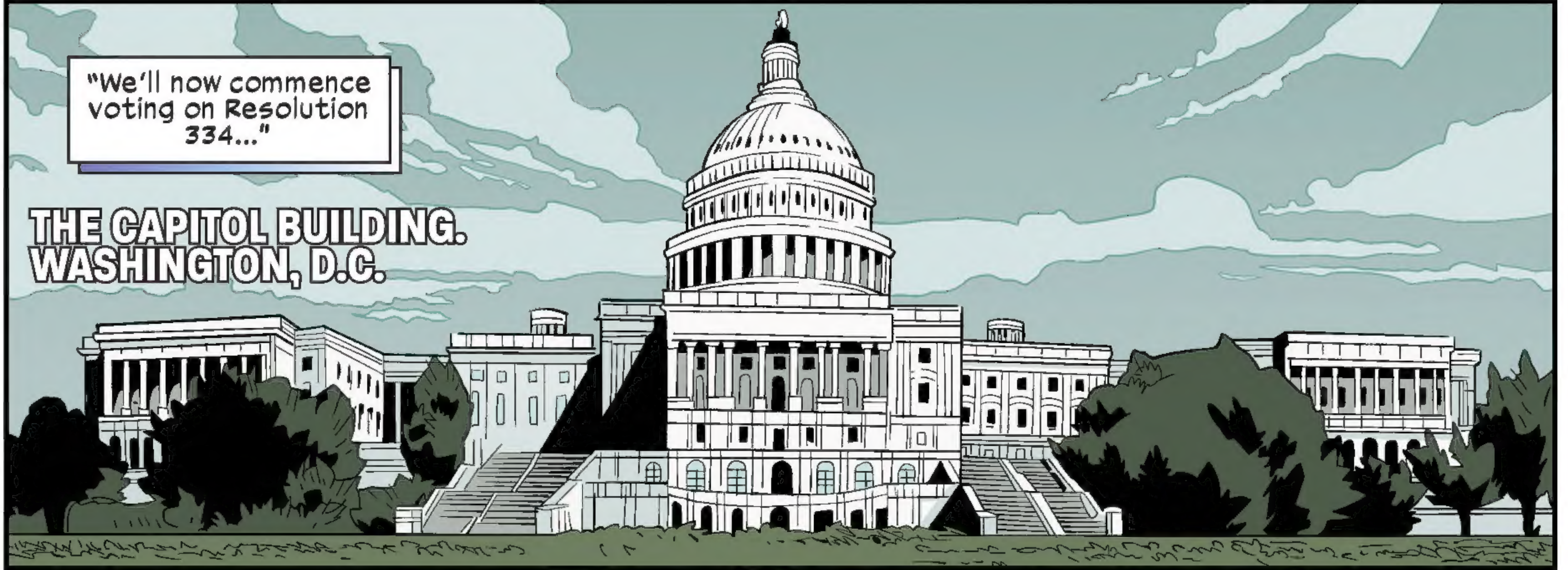
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"We'll now commence voting on Resolution 334..."

THE CAPITOL BUILDING. WASHINGTON, D.C.



...Entitled the *Protect American Ideas and Property for the Vitality of the Homeland Act*. Honored members, please cast your votes.

The bill, having already passed the House of Representatives with a veto-proof majority, now looks on track to pass the Senate by similar margins.



YEA 93 MAY 7

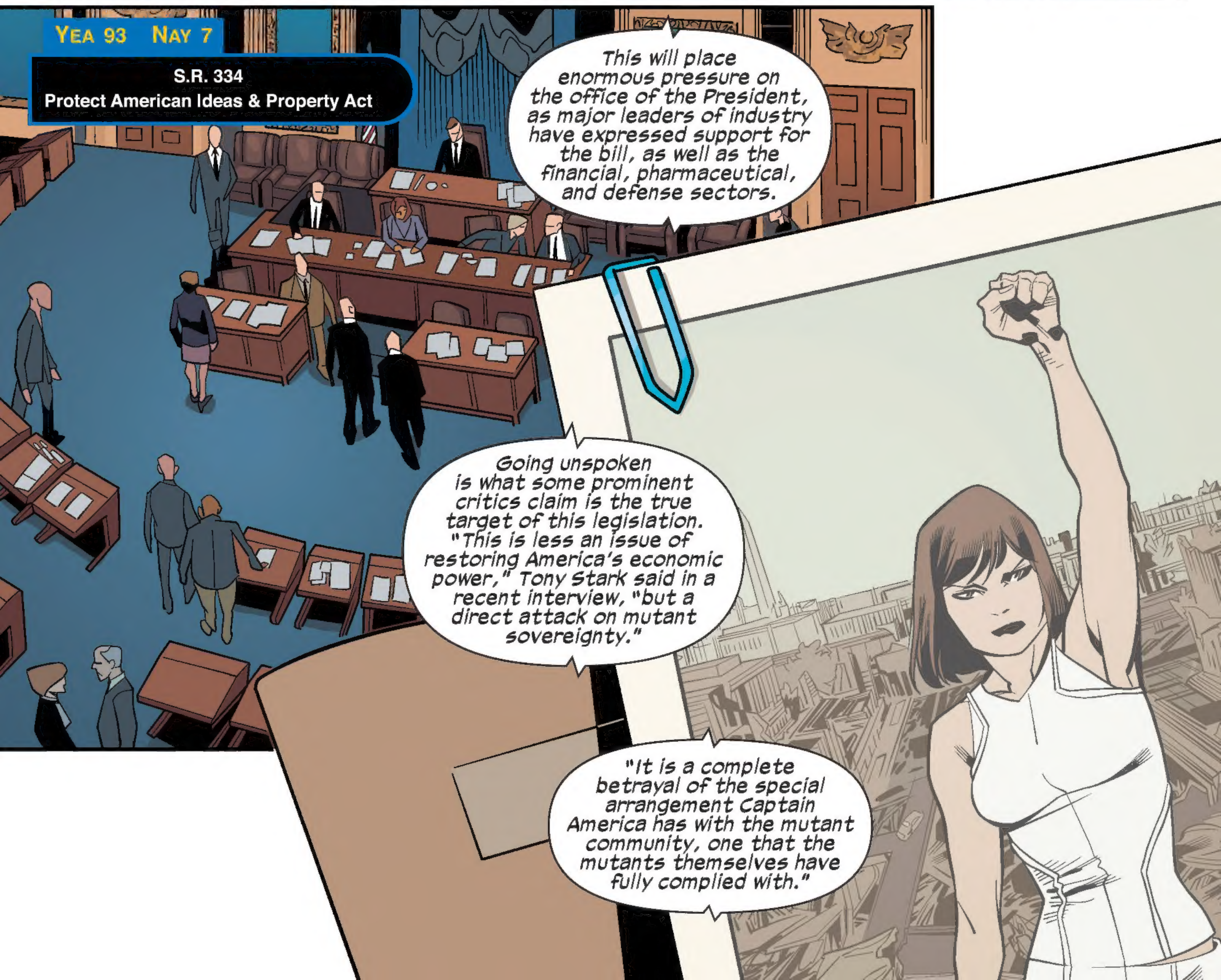
S.R. 334

Protect American Ideas & Property Act

This will place enormous pressure on the office of the President, as major leaders of industry have expressed support for the bill, as well as the financial, pharmaceutical, and defense sectors.

Going unspoken is what some prominent critics claim is the true target of this legislation. "This is less an issue of restoring America's economic power," Tony Stark said in a recent interview, "but a direct attack on mutant sovereignty."

"It is a complete betrayal of the special arrangement Captain America has with the mutant community, one that the mutants themselves have fully complied with."





AMARA AQUILLA
aka MAGMA.



SHOLA INKOSI



KITTY PRYDE



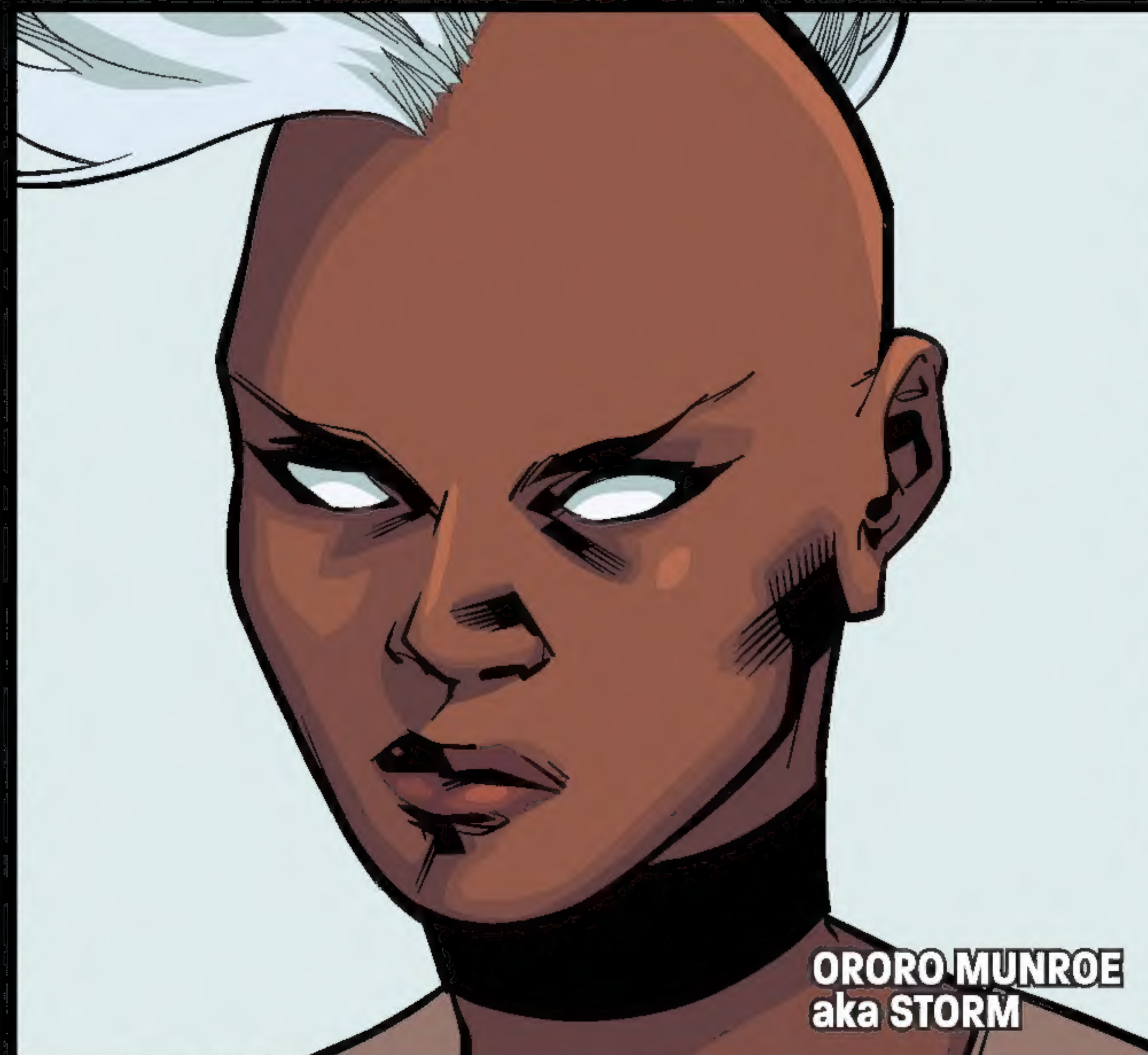
JIMMY HUDSON
aka WOLVERINE



NOMI BLUME
aka MACH TWO



MARIAN CARLYLE
aka ROGUE



ORORO MUNROE
aka STORM



HISAKO ICHIKI
aka ARMOR



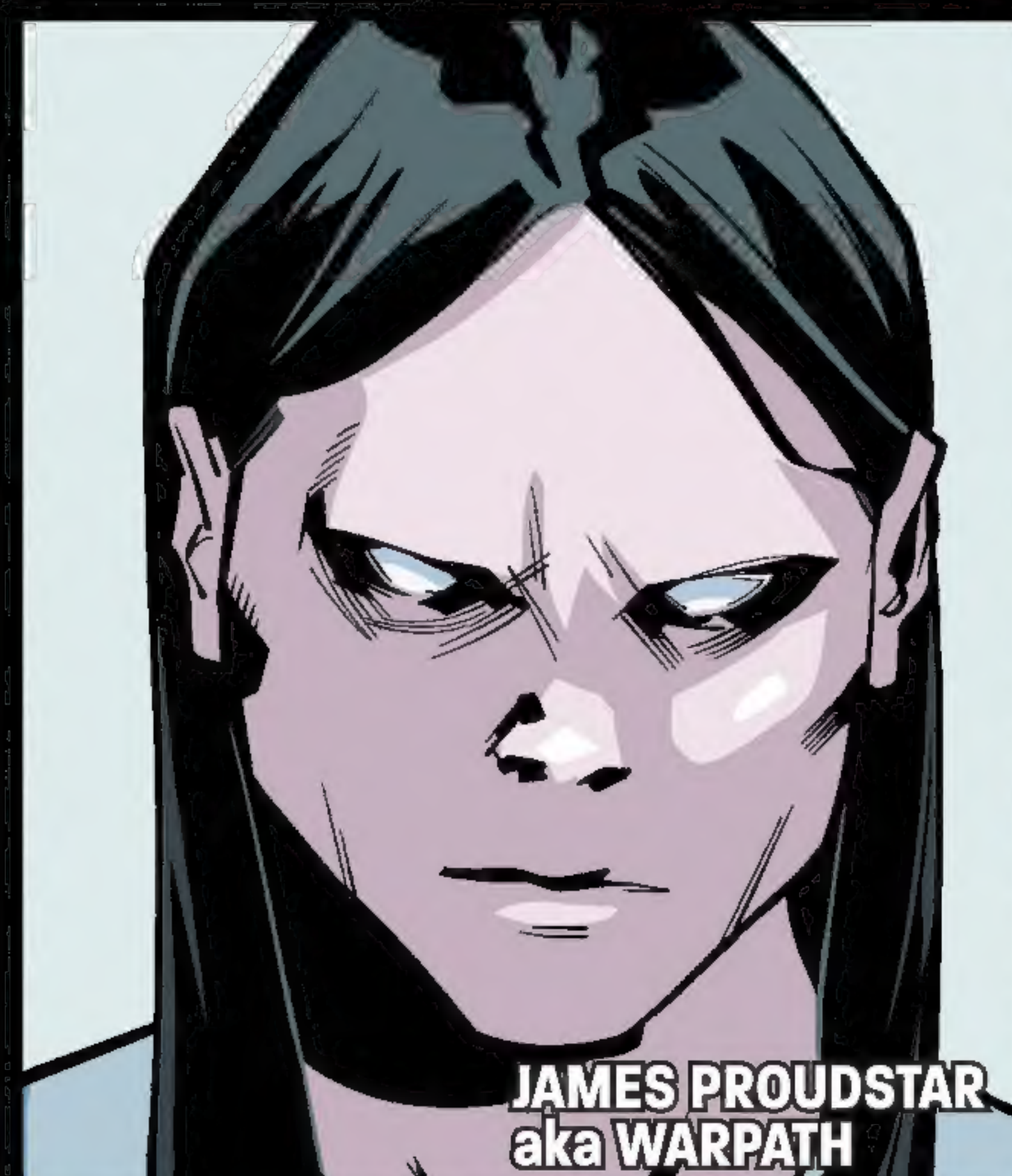
SCOTT WRIGHT
aka MICROMAX



KENJI UEDO
aka ZERO



BETSY BRADDOCK
aka PSYLOCKE



JAMES PROUDSTAR
aka WARPAT



SAM SMITHERS
aka BLACKHEATH



GARAB BASHUR
aka BLACK BOX



NATURAL RESOURCES PART TWO

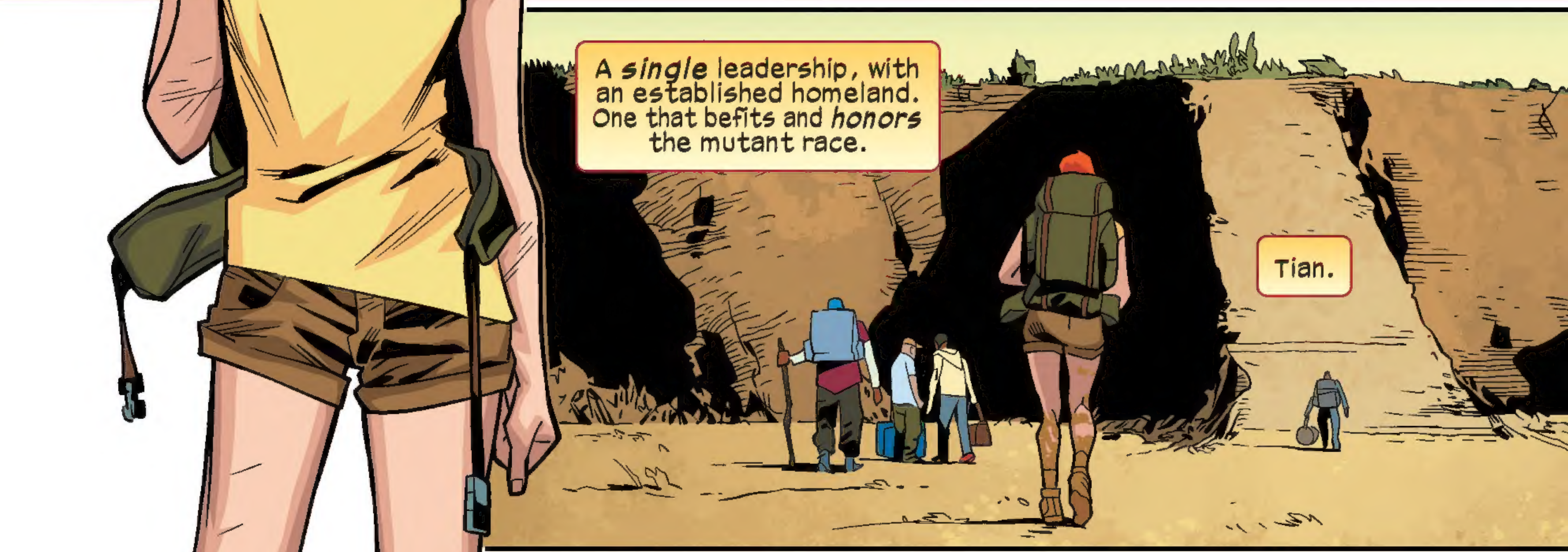
WOOD ASRAR

VLASCO BELLAIRE



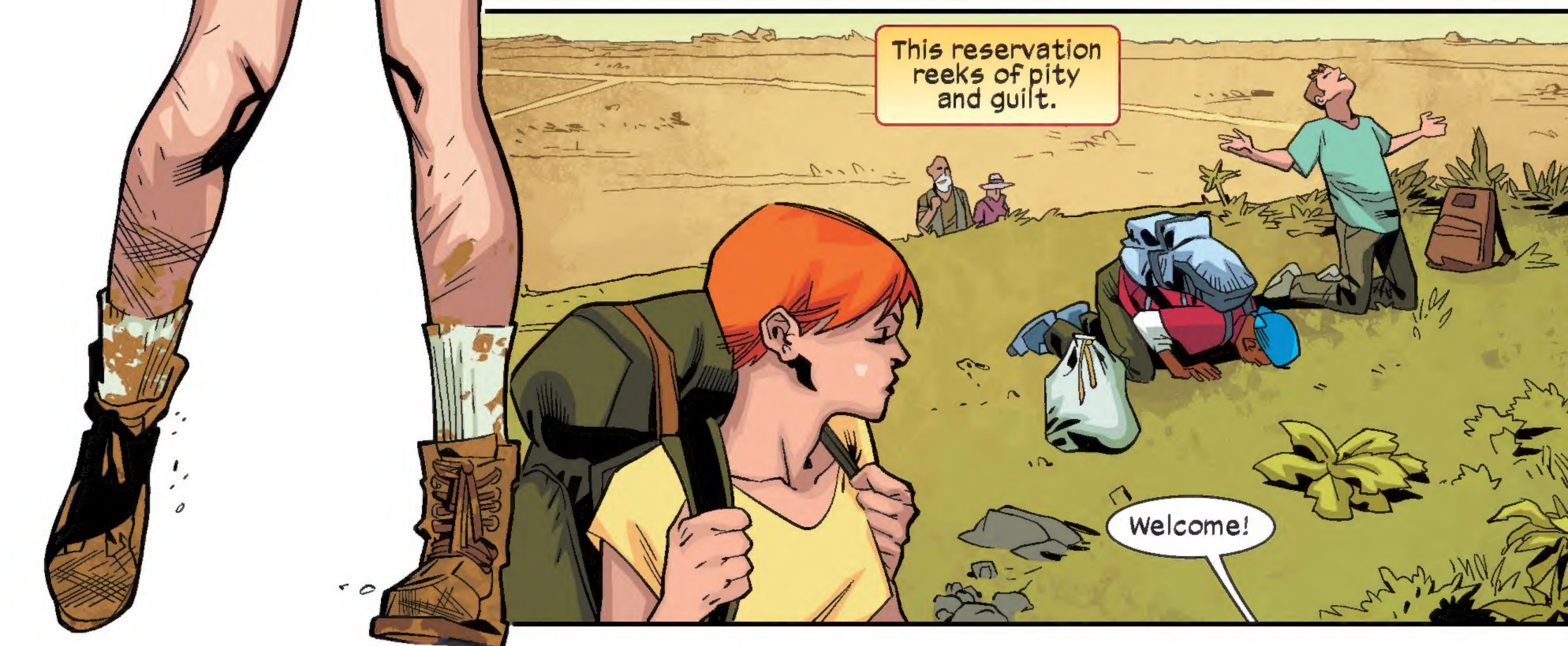
My name is
Jean Grey.

I was Karen Grant for the longest
time. Karen suited my needs, but
times have changed. The times
call for strong mutant leadership.



A *single* leadership, with
an established homeland.
One that befits and *honors*
the mutant race.

Tian.



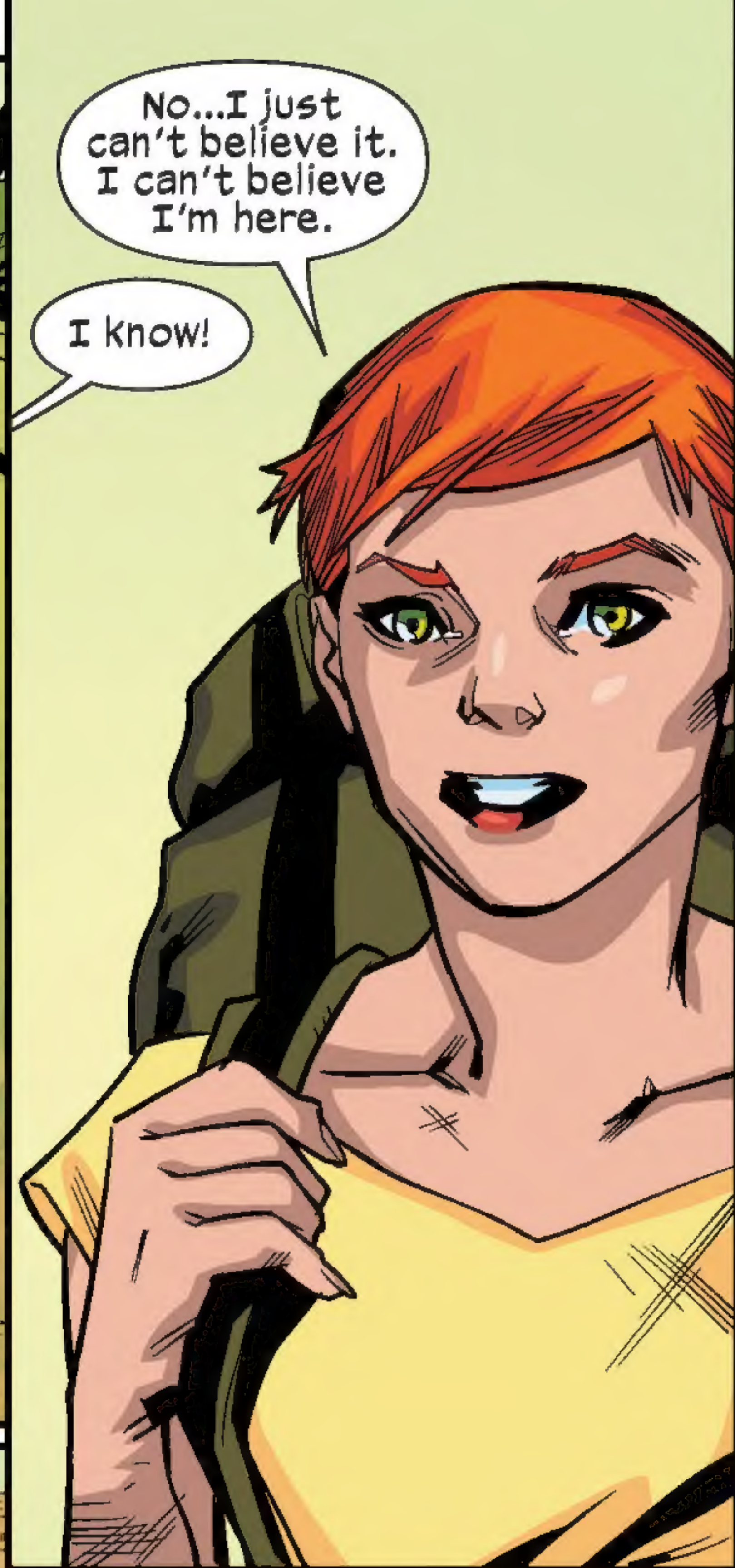
This reservation
reeks of pity
and guilt.

Welcome!



Not having second thoughts, I hope?

I'm Magma, by the way.



No...I just can't believe it. I can't believe I'm here.

I know!



I still feel that way **every single morning** when I wake up. It's, like, **amazing** here.

So let me tell you how it works, 'cuz I know you must be exhausted.

You can shower and change and eat, and we have temporary housing set up for new arrivals. We feel it's important not to rush getting you a permanent home, since most people like to help build theirs.

The sentient seed is involved in that process as well, believe it or not. She-- I call her a she-- is sorta in charge of how we use the trees and stuff.

You *live* in trees?

You haven't **heard?**

Where are you from, anyway?





From **everywhere**, it seems. I've been moving around a lot. My name's Jean.

I've heard about Utopia, but it's so amazing I had to assume it was all rumor and wishful thinking.

Magma?

It feels like *anything's* possible here.



Kitty, omg! You have to meet Jean!

...Jean?

Cutting my hair wasn't going to hide the real me.

So this is where the *real* disguise comes into play.



Hi.

I feel that moment of confusion fade away as she realizes she has no idea who I am.



Welcome to Utopia. I hope you--



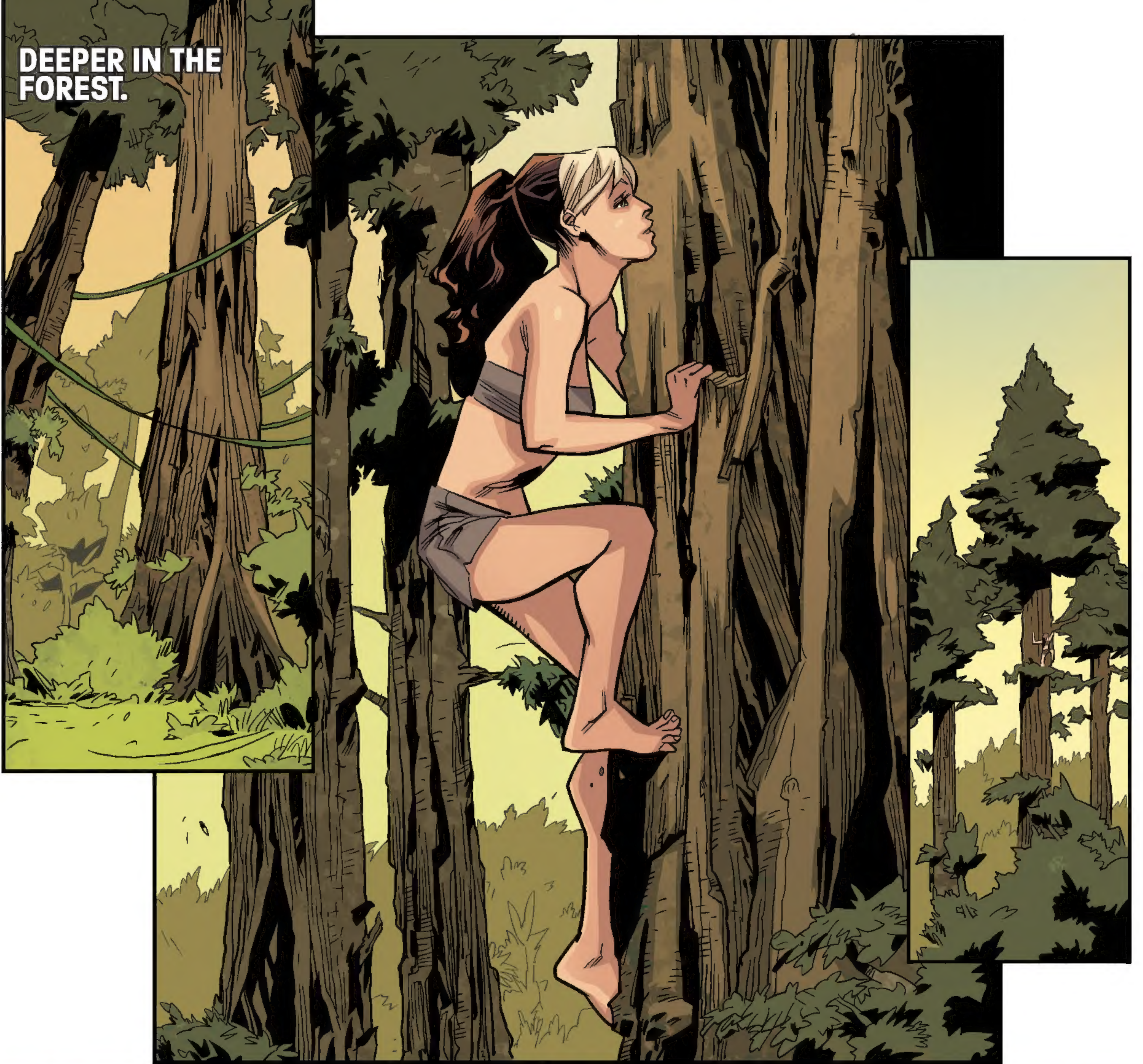
Oh!

I'm sorry, you...You have *no idea* what it's like to actually meet you.



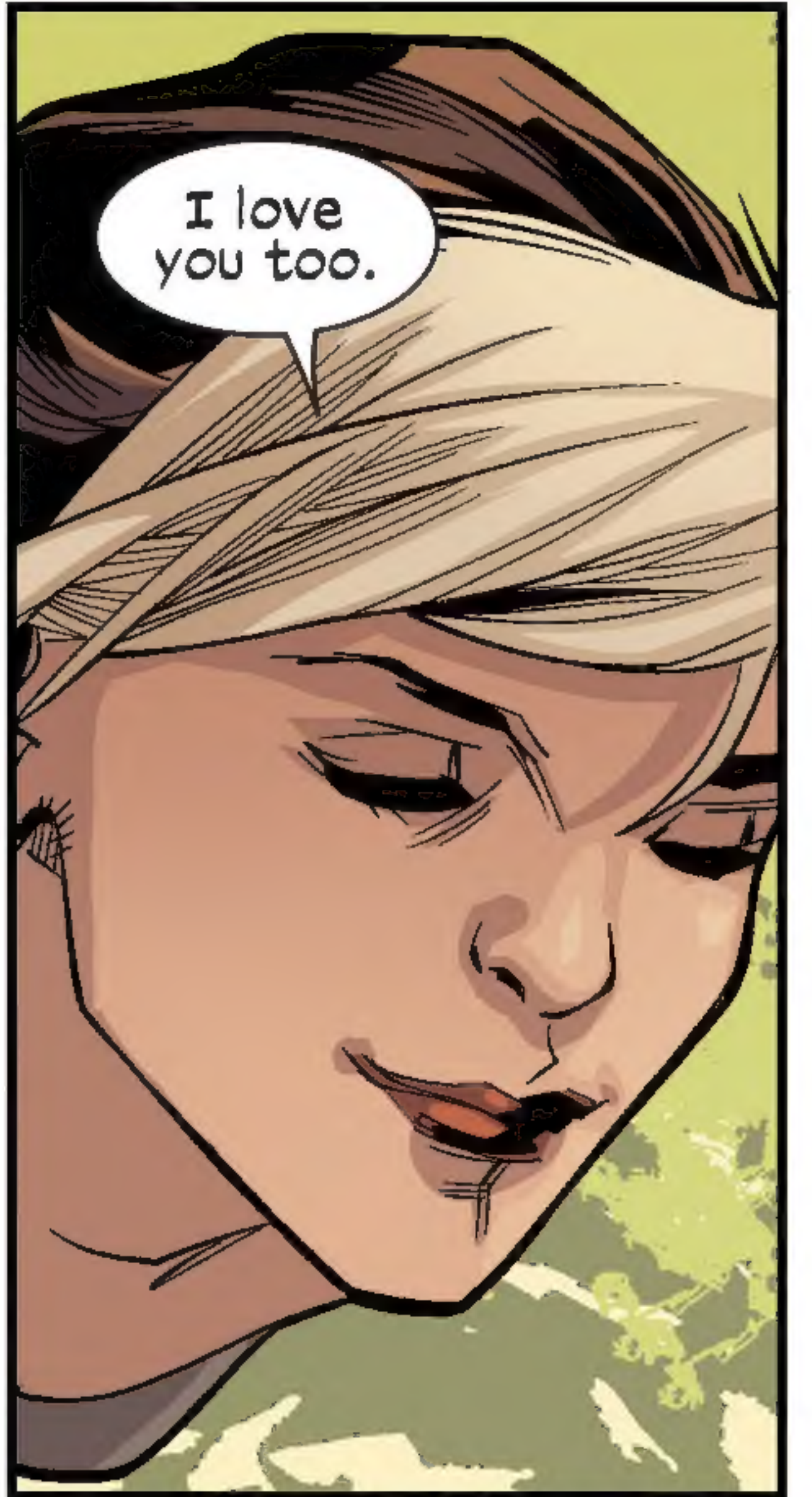
To meet the leader of the mutants.

DEEPER IN THE
FOREST.



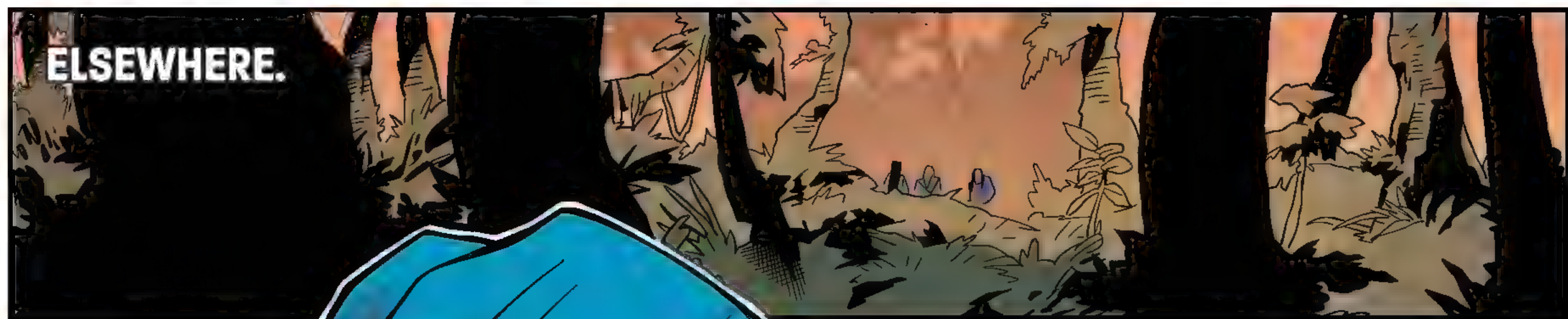


Haha!



I love you too.

ELSEWHERE.



...

What?

You heard right, Nomi.

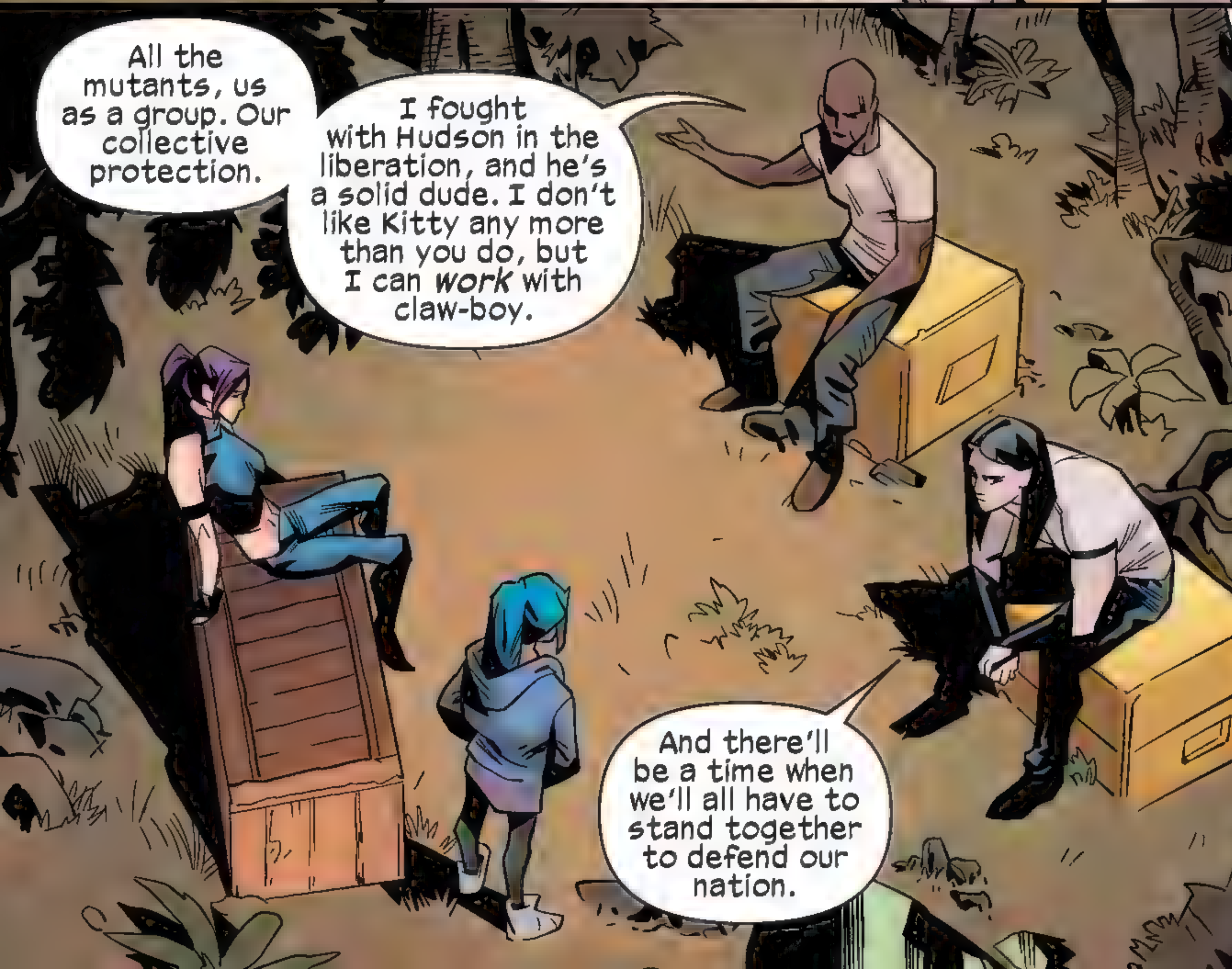


Yeah, that's right, Psylocke. Pry away, dig deep. You can see I'm not hiding anything.

James Hudson came to us with a totally valid proposal and I accepted.

On my behalf?

On everybody's behalf!



All the mutants, us as a group. Our collective protection.

I fought with Hudson in the liberation, and he's a solid dude. I don't like Kitty any more than you do, but I can *work* with claw-boy.

And there'll be a time when we'll all have to stand together to defend our nation.



That's all we agreed to.

wait, wait, wait, wait...

"...you agreed to
'team up'?"

I'm not
asking you to do
anything now. I just
need to know I can
count on you.

We're the
warrior class here.
The protectors of
the women and the
kids. I love Kitty
Pryde...

...But I can't
buy into her pacifist
philosophy. I'll support
her all the way up until
the point I can't.

I'll fight
anyone, to the
death if need
be, to save
Utopia.

You know
you sound like
Mach Two
right now.

You sure
you don't
wanna **defect**,
Hudson?

Don't
joke.

Mach Two's
a child. Kitty used
to basically babysit
her in the tunnels
back in New York.
Nomi **worshipped**
her.

At some point
she decided Kitty
wasn't living up to
whatever ideal Nomi
has in her head, and
to her that's worth
pitting us against
one another.

Don't let
a temper
tantrum bring
down Utopia.

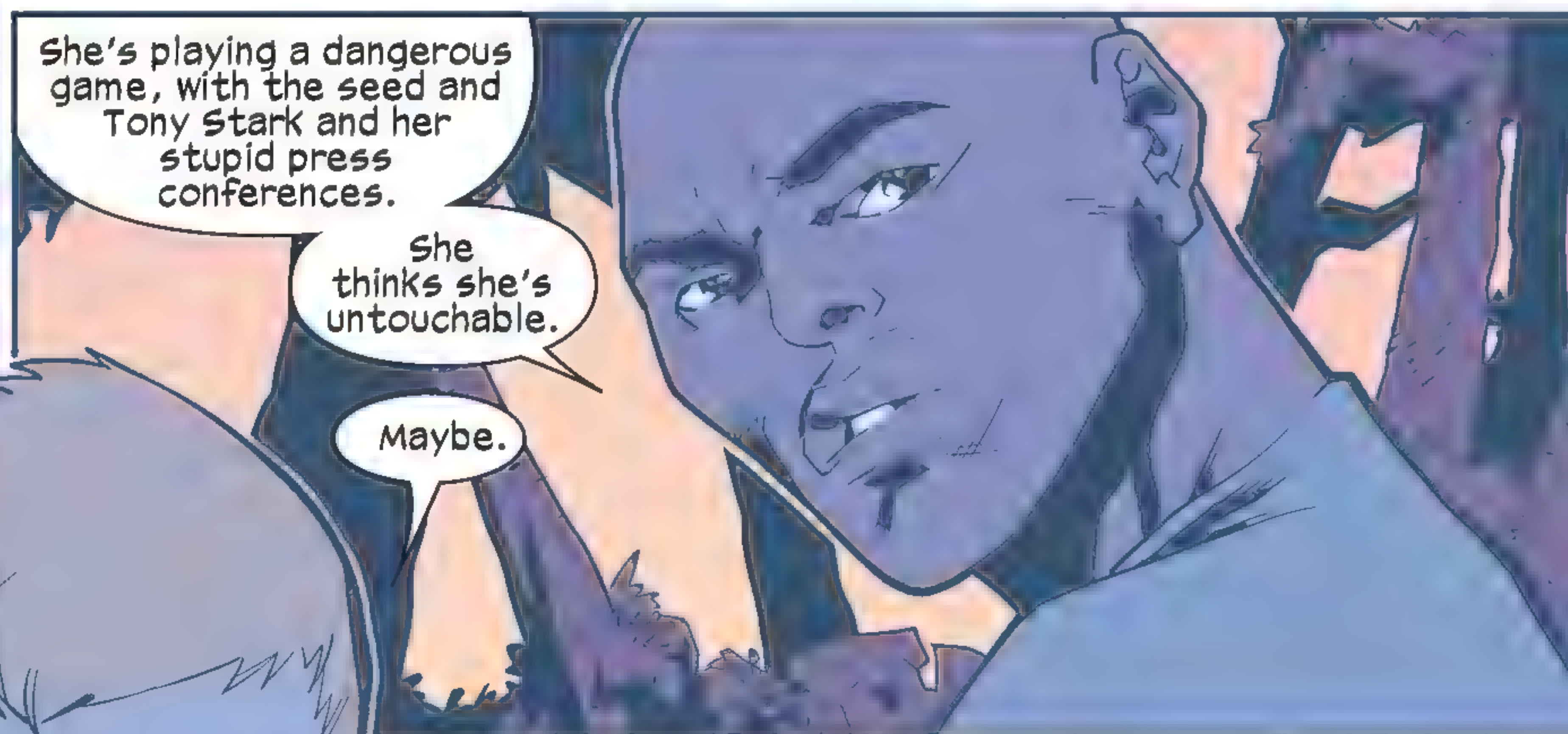
Look, all you
have to do is
agree to a common
defense. That's **all**
I'm asking.



Yeah, okay.
We can agree
to that.

If it comes
down to it, we're
on your side,
Hudson.

But since you're
gonna be the secret
muscle behind Kitty's
peaceful facade, you
make sure it never
gets to that point.



She's playing a dangerous
game, with the seed and
Tony Stark and her
stupid press
conferences.

She
thinks she's
untouchable.

Maybe.



But
that's why
I'm there.

And hey, come
to think of it, I *am*
going to ask you to
do something now.

Return the
handgun Mach
Two stole from
Kitty.



Why?

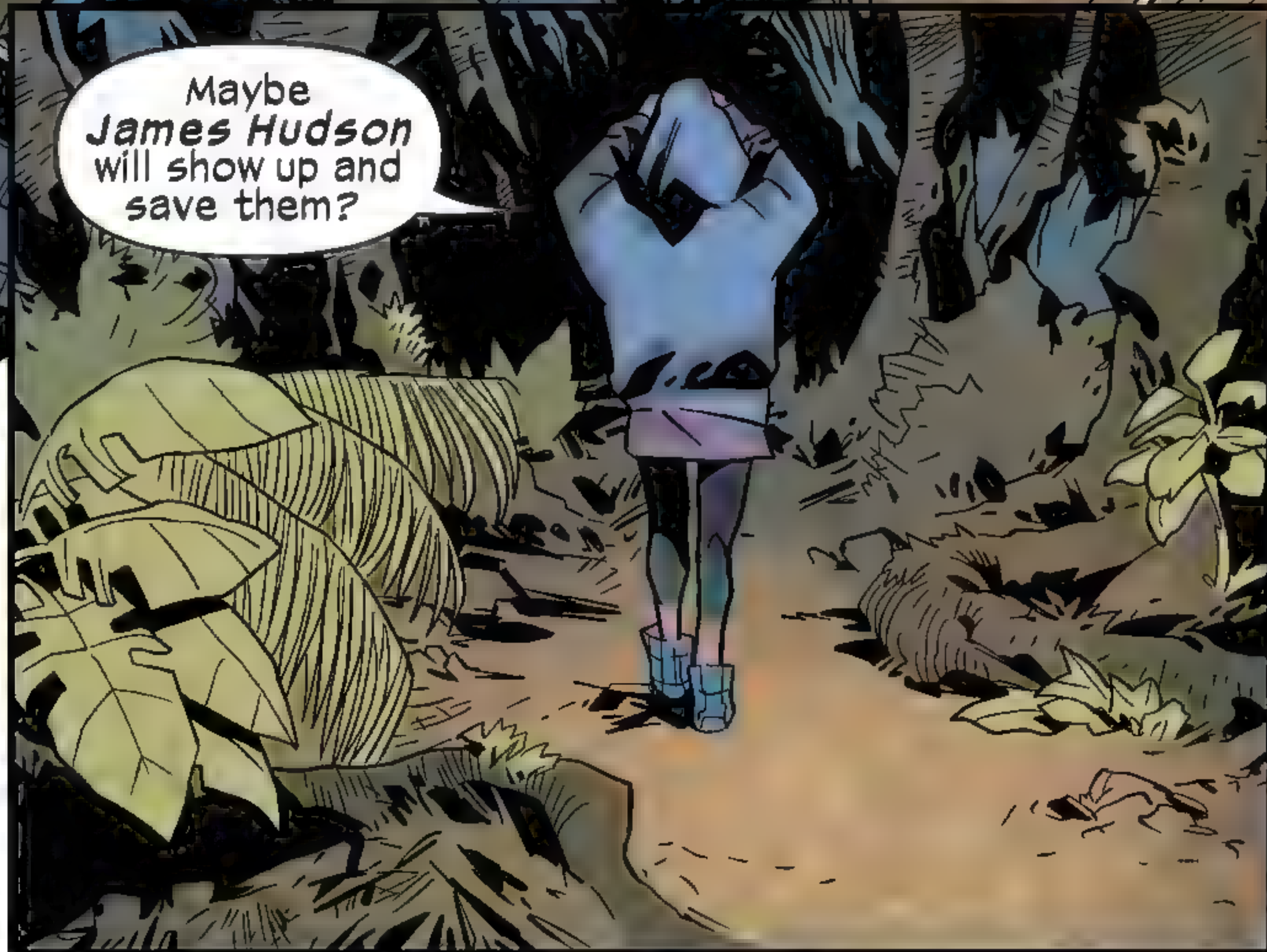
A gesture.
For me, not for
Kitty. And I'll
owe you one.

What are
you going to
do with it,
then?



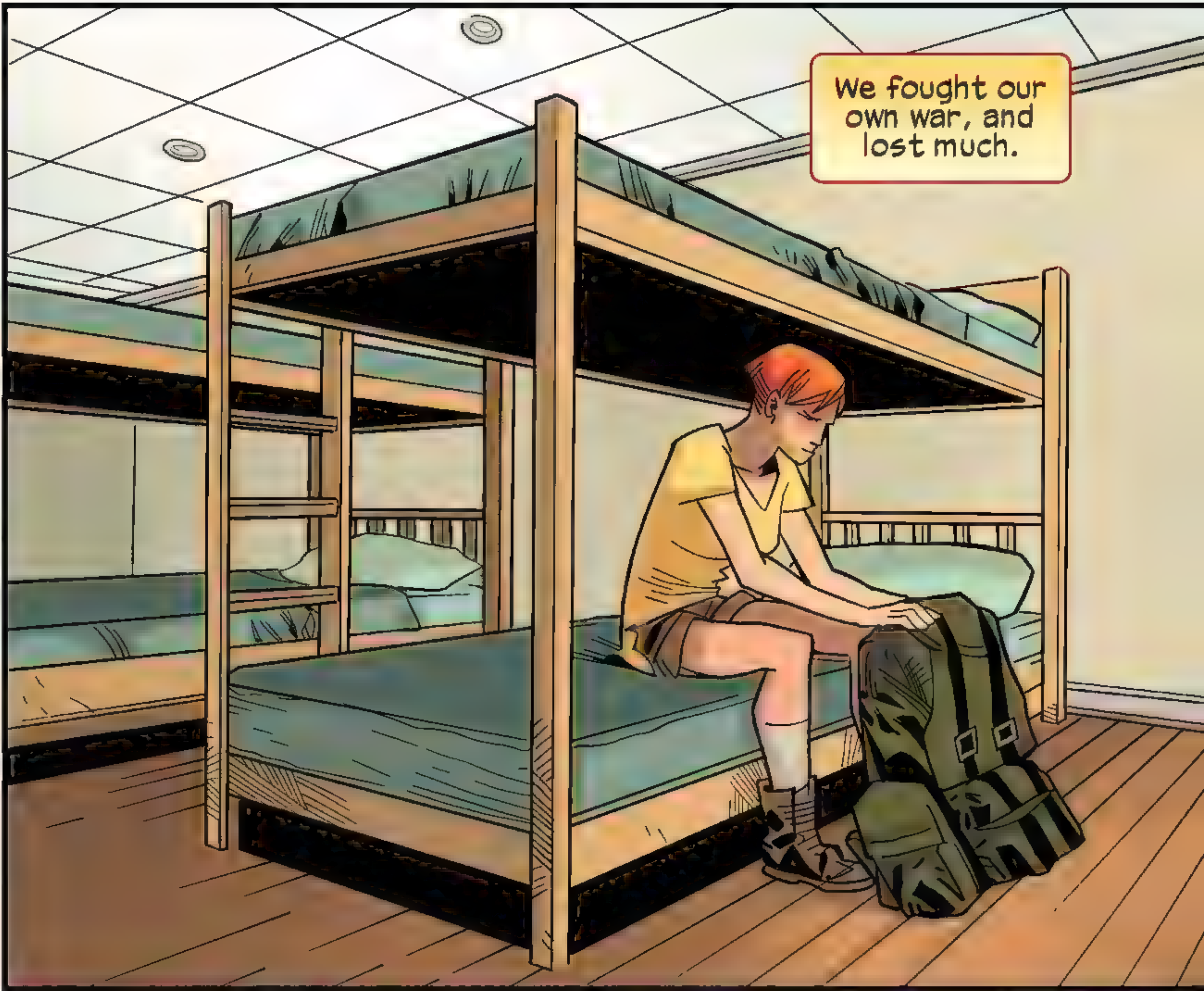
Get rid of
it, for good. It's
a disaster waiting
to happen, that
thing.

Next time
we fight for our
freedom, we won't
fight the way
humans do...





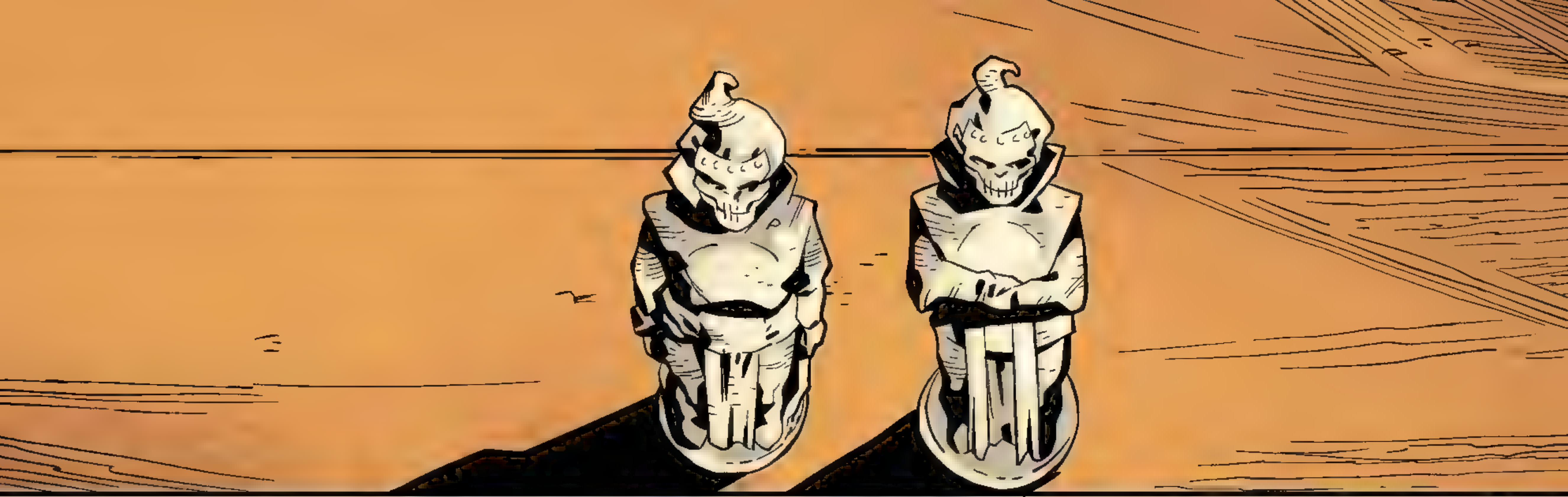
In a way, I can understand Kitty Pryde. I can understand Utopia.



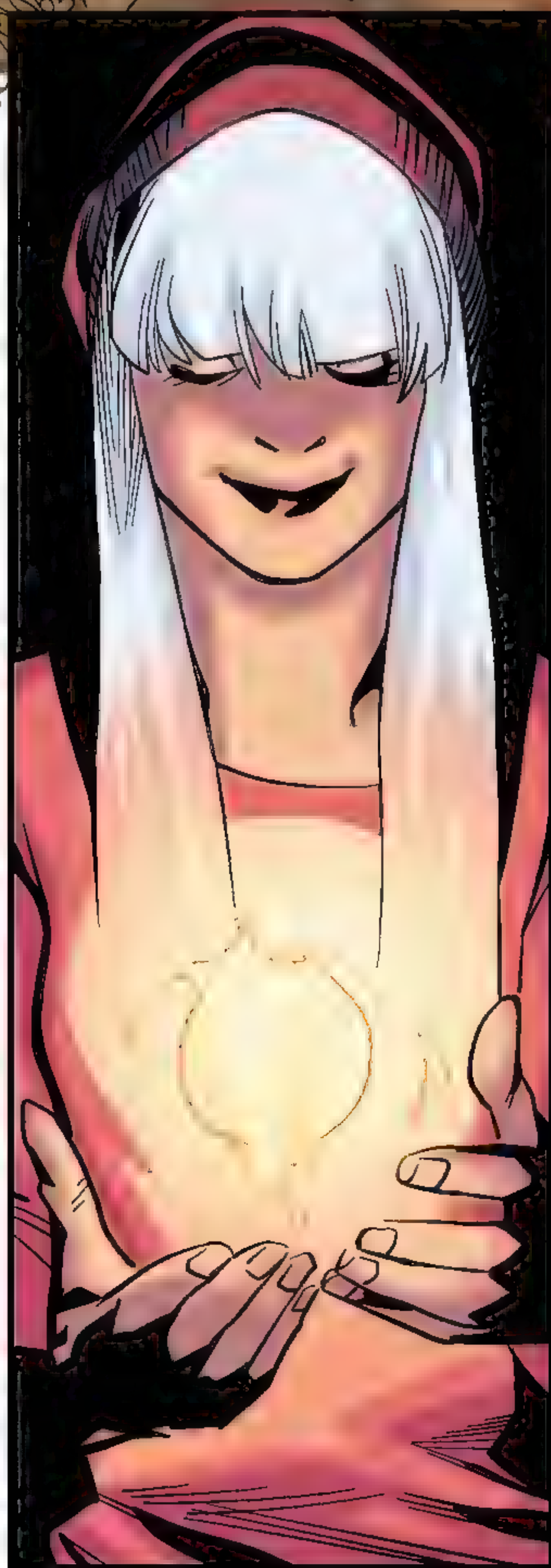
We fought our own war, and lost much.



We lost much indeed.



All hail
Tian.



We were lucky with our original twenty. Our abilities were well suited to the task at hand.

Task?

Creating Utopia.

It's the way she says that word, "Utopia," it's less a proper name than a description. It's small 'u' Utopia.

She thinks she's created a literal paradise.



Of course, then we were just trying to secure the basics: food, water, shelter.

We had no idea.

Her arrogance is repulsive.



So what's your ability? Or do you have more than one?



Careful. Guard your identity.

Just the one: telekinesis.

Really?



We can use you. We lost our telekinetics. They're with the others, the ones who rejected Utopia.

Rejected you, you mean. I know all about Mach Two. The emotions flooding your brain right now, Kitty... you should be in therapy.



Is this some kind of interview?

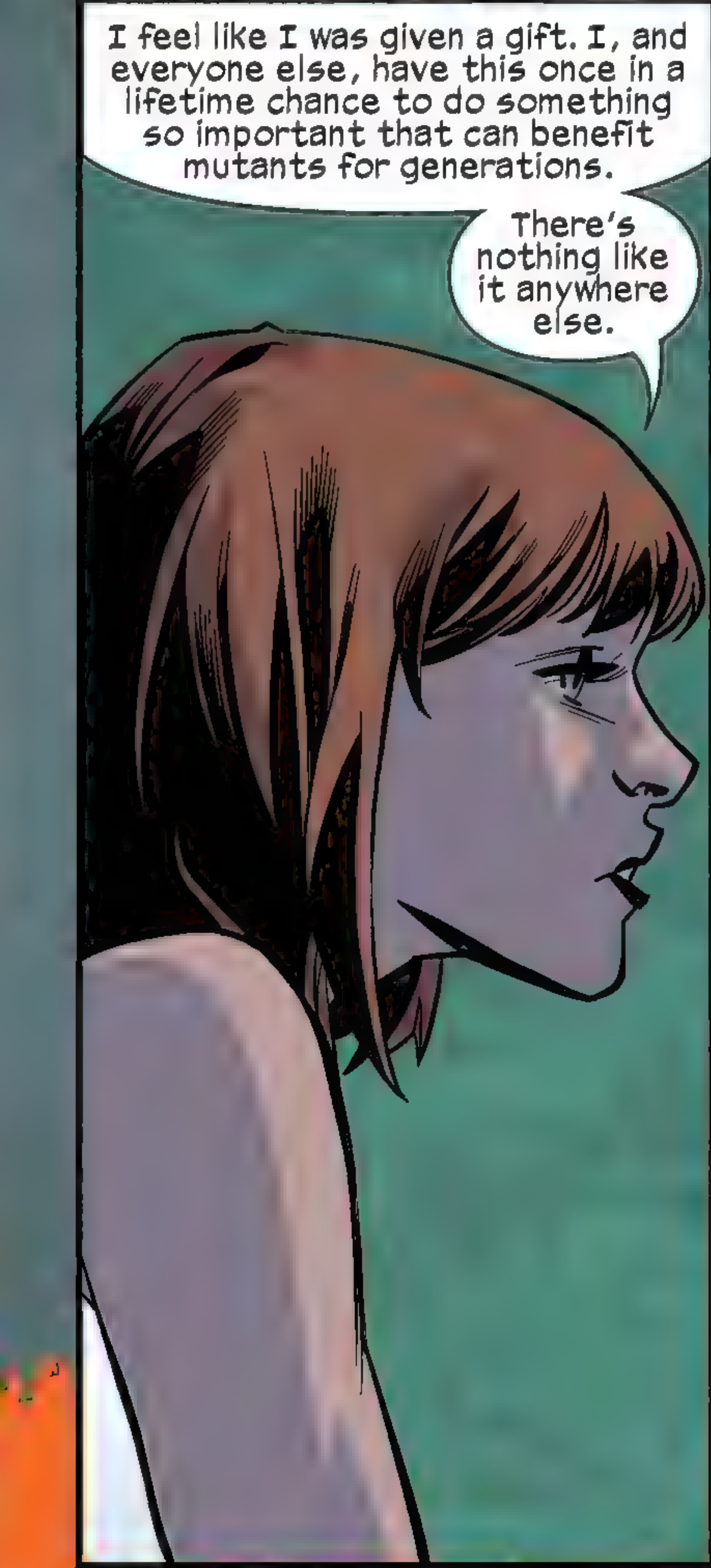
In a way.



We're a collective.
A community. We all
bring something to the
table, and we all benefit
from each other's
strengths.

You make
it sound like
everything works
perfectly, that
it's so ideal.

It should
be.




I feel like I was given a gift. I, and
everyone else, have this once in a
lifetime chance to do something
so important that can benefit
mutants for generations.

There's
nothing like
it anywhere
else.




What about
Tian?



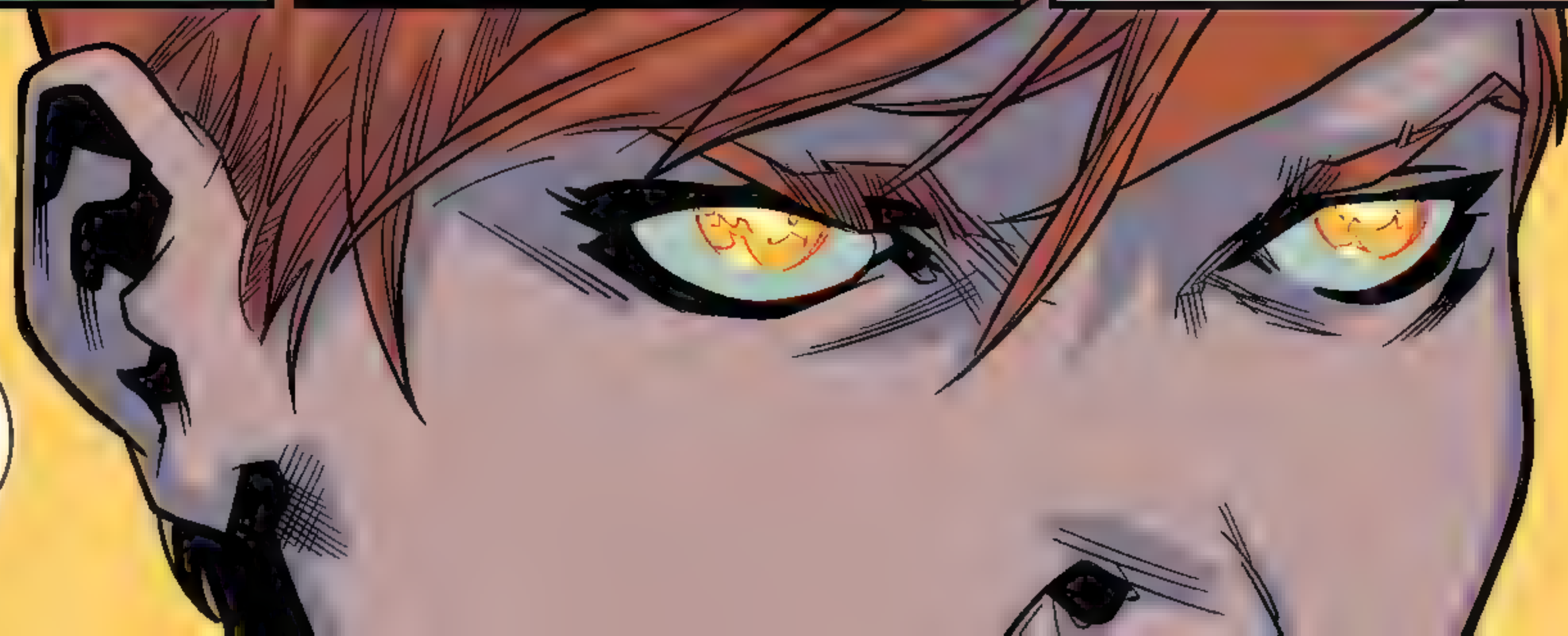
Oh. Yeah, Tian.
Tian's not really the
same thing at all, is it?
It's more of a kingdom,
a walled garden, a
playground for Xorn
and Zorn, right?

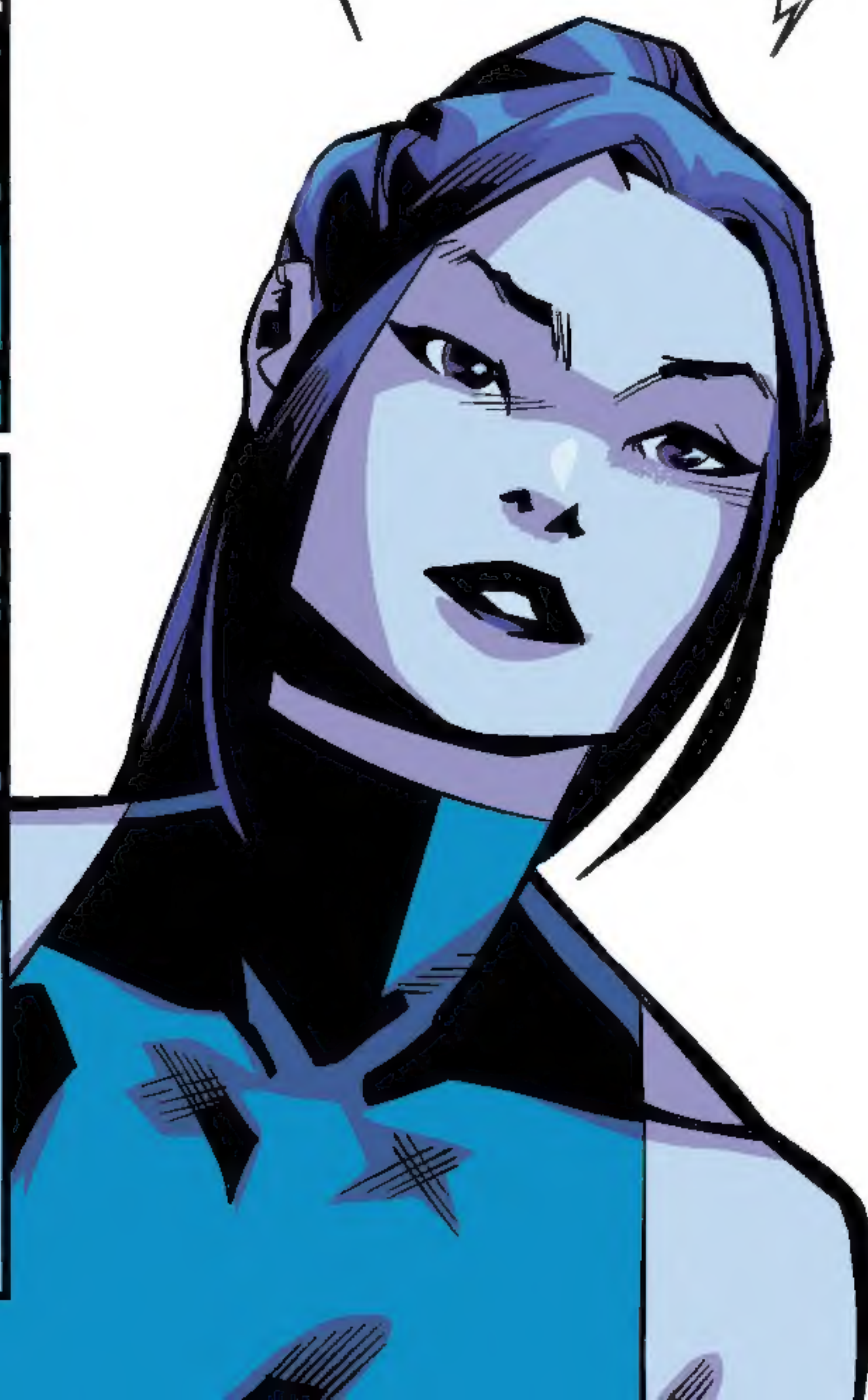
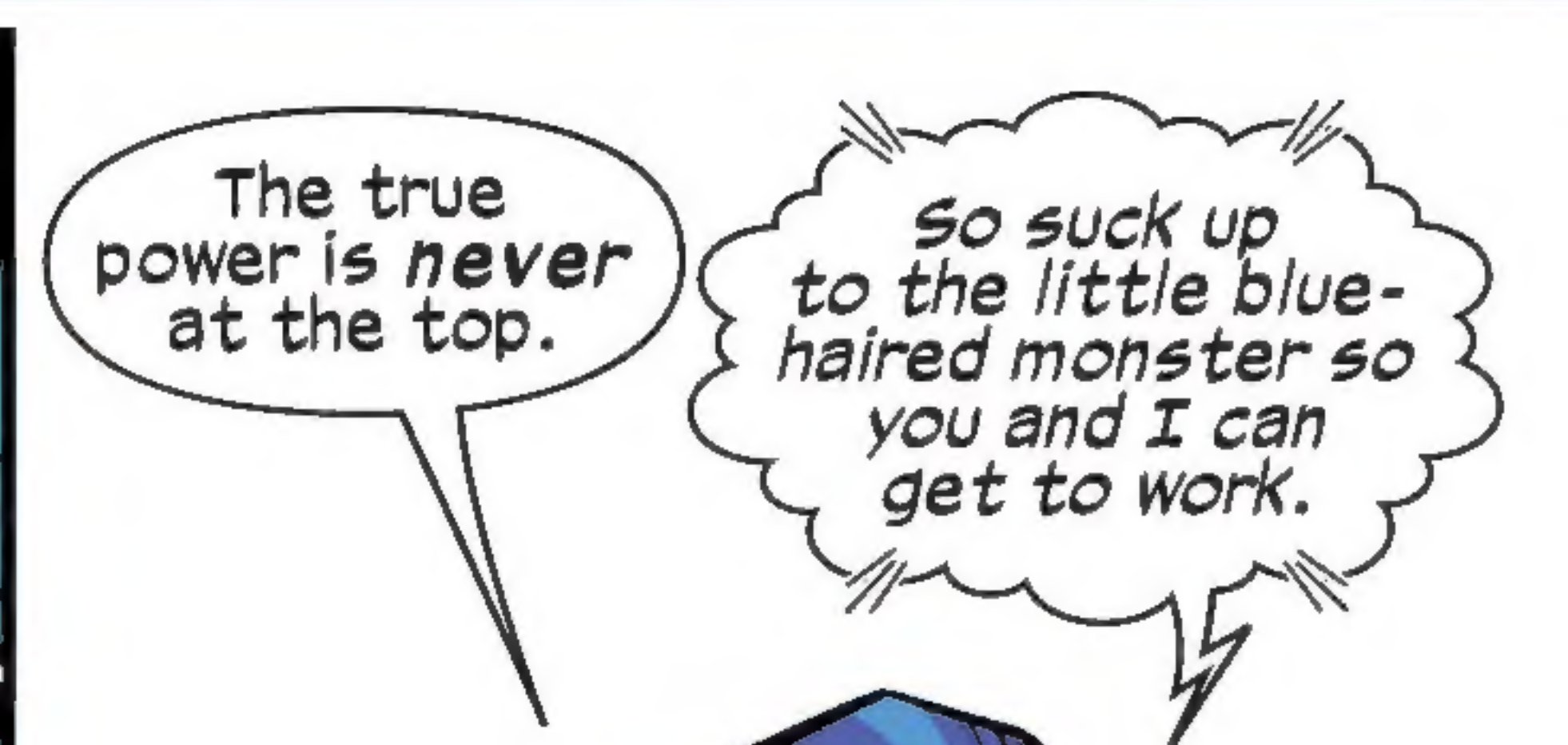
I have a hard
time imagining
scores of refugees
knocking on
their doors.



Utopia's the
true mutant homeland.
More grounded, more
honest, where mutants
can build their future
with their own
hands.

Tian just
seems...a bit
much, don't
you think?





U.S. ARMY BASE
SPECIAL OPERATIONS,
80 MILES NNW OF UTOPIA.

Unbelievable.

Never seen a
commander-in-chief
so unwilling to take
command.

Is there
trouble, General
Ross?

Not for
us, we have our
authorization.
Are your men
ready?

Standing by. Let
me remind you
this operation
is a domestic
one and as such
is under my
jurisdiction.

I got no
problem with you
Feds taking point
on this. But let
me tell you one
thing...

...I'm not going to stand around
while another Waco or Ruby Ridge
goes down. This "Utopia" is an
embarrassment to the
country. To the world.
This is America.

My youngest
daughter sees
that girl leader of
theirs on TV and it's
all I can do not to
put a round through
the set.



So if those mutants so much as twitch at us, you order your men clear.

All right, men, *move out!*

Operation Natural Resources is a go!

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:



ULTIMATE COMICS
ULTIMATES #22
ON SALE NOW!



ULTIMATE COMICS
WOLVERINE #2
ON SALE NOW!



ULTIMATE COMICS
SPIDER-MAN #21
ON SALE NOW!